

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Inventor: David J. HOUSTON et al. Group Art Unit: 3711

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Sirs:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08A. It is requested that the information on Form PTO/SB/08A be considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record and appear among the "References Cited" on any issued patent.

The references include foreign patent documents. German Patent No. DE3413247, with english language abstract; French Patent No. FR2637811, with english language abstract; French Patent No. 2776935, with english language abstract; Japanese Patent No. 10192469, with english language abstract; and Japanese Patent. No. 11239626, with english language abstract.

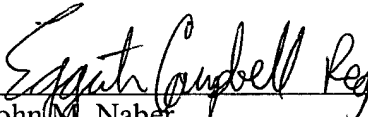
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This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed along with a response to a Non-Final Office Action dated January 12, 2005.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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